

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 02645 201453Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 EUR-12 ACDA-12 SOE-02 DOE-15  
DOEE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /111 W  
-----061676 201513Z /47

O 181624Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1622  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2645

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: NONE PROVIDED BY DRAFTING OFFICE  
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN OPINIONS ON SOVIET -CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE  
IN ETHIOPIA

REF: USIA 7693

1.THERE HAS BEEN HIGH-LEVEL GOV APPREHENSION EXPRESSED ESPECIALLY  
ABOUT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN EHTIOPIA.

2. POLITICAL PARTIES LIKE AD COPEI THE MAJOR MEDIA AND THE  
MILITARY DISAPPROVE THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA  
IN ETHIOPIA AS UNSETTLING AND DISCOMFITTING BECAUSE THEIR FEAR  
IS THAT CUBAN ACTIVITY MAY BE REPLICATED IN LATIN AMERICA AS IN  
THE SUBVERSION IN VENEZUEALA SUPPORTED IN THE EARLY SIXTIES BY  
CASTRO. THE CONCERN HERE WOULD BE LOWER IF ONLY CIVILIAN  
CUBAN ELEMENTS WERE IN THE QUESTION. BUT THE MILITARY PRESENCE  
IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE.

3.ONE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE AR LEFT BECAUSE OF  
IT'S IDEOLOGICAL POSITION COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE EITHER NEUTRAL OR  
FAVORABLY INCLINED TO CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 02645 201453Z

4. U.S.VIEWPOINTS HAVE NOT GENERATED ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMENT  
OF WHICH THE POST IS AWARE.

5. ARTURO USLAR PIETRI TOP VENEZUELAN INTELLECTUAL AND CURRENTLY  
AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO PUBLISHED ON FEB26 IN"EL NACIONAL" IN HIS  
INTERMITTENTCOLUMN OF COMMENTARY ENTITLED "PIZARRON" A PIECE CALLED

"THE ASPHYXIATION OF EUROPE" . AFTER REVIEWING THE ALMOST COMPLETE DEPENDENCE OF EUROPE ON AFRICAN ENERGY AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS, IN COLONIAL TIMES AND TODAY, HE NOTED THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WAS IN REALITY ONE BETWEEN SOVIET AND WESTERN INFLUENCE. THE AREA IS THE KEY TO DOMINATION OF THE RED SEA AND OIL ROUTES TO THE WEST AND A BASE FOR THREATENING THE RICH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

6. THE POSSIBILITY OF ASPHYXIATING EUROPE THROUGH DENIAL OR DIMINISHING ITS ENERGY SUPPLIES IS A "PERSPECTIVE OF CATASTROPHE WHICH WORRIES CHANCELLERIES AND GENERAL STAFFS."

7. USLAR PIETRI GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST DOESN'T POSE AS MUCH OF A DANGER TO HUMANITY AS THESE PROLIFERATING, ESCALATING LOCALIZED CONFLICTS IN WHICH SUPERPOWERS DON'T TAKE PART DIRECTLY BUT DO PROVIDE ARMS TECHNICIANS AND ADVISERS. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE CUBAN ROLE IN ETHIOPIA.

8. ASIDE FROM WIRE SERVICE NEWS STORIES ON THE SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA CONFLICT THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT LOCAL COMMENTARY. KEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CARACA02645  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780122-0831  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabrnpl.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4ca37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3283809  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VENEZUELAN OPINIONS ON SOVIET -CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, PEPR, CU, ET, SO, UR, VE  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4ca37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014